**From:** ben.ganzfried@gmail.com on behalf of Ben Ganzfried
**To:** Simmons, Denise
**Subject:** Cambridge City Council Hearing on Israel Boycott - Monday, April 23
**Date:** Wednesday, April 11, 2018 7:12:42 AM

---

Dear Ms. Simmons,

I am writing to urge you to please reconsider this hearing on an Israel Boycott. It is morally wrong and financially irresponsible to the citizens of Cambridge.

When I studied abroad in Jerusalem, my favorite coffee shop, Cafe Hillel has a memorial for the 7 killed and over 50 injured in a September 2003 Hamas suicide bombing. There are many residents of Cambridge that have family, friends, and even themselves who are among the thousands who have been injured by these horrible atrocities. I encourage you to at least speak with these residents before considering such a hateful proposal. Boycotting Israel alone, among the many actual repressive places in the world with human rights violations is singling out the only democracy in the Middle East. It's unfair, it's unjust, and it's wrong.

By only listening to one very biased organization lobbying you to have such a hearing, you're going to serve their propaganda needs and harm your own constituents. This is the same reason that Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren recently voted in a 100-0 Senate Resolution condemning the one-sidedness of the UN against Israel. I strongly encourage you to stand with Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren in rejecting this hatred. This is anti-Semitism and supporting it in effect, if not intent, will not benefit you or us, the residents of Cambridge.

Legally and financially speaking, the U.S. House and Senate recently passed the Israel Anti-Boycott Act (https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/1697). What this means practically is that Harvard/MIT, two universities heavily dependent on federal grants, may be legally limited from helping out the city of Cambridge as they currently do. This would be disastrous for all your amazing initiatives, from affordable housing to health and services. And to be clear, the reason that this Israel Anti-Boycott Act will pass smoothly in the House and Senate is not because of a nefarious Israel lobby, but because all Americans, progressive, conservative and other, we all stand with democratic countries that protect the rights of all their citizens, regardless of religion, gender, or orientation.

The only people who gain from this hearing are a very small, vocal, and increasingly anti-Semitic group who present false, distorted and misleading information to well-intentioned council members like yourself. I cannot overstate how morally wrong and disastrous this proposal will be for the citizens of Cambridge.

I humbly request that you please reconsider so that you and your colleagues can continue to do the great work you are doing for all of us, the citizens of Cambridge.

Thank you very much,
Ben Ganzfried